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U.S. Department of Transportation
Room Plaza 401
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington DC 20590-0001
CC: Brian Armstrong

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Air Tour Management Plan (ATMP) for the Lake Mead Recreation Area (LAME), the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument (GCPNM) and surrounding effected public lands.

The Environmental Assessment should consider the General Airport (GA) that will be located south of I-15 on Mormon Mesa. The planned GA will have a 7500-foot runway accommodating larger planes than the existing GA in Mesquite. The city of Mesquite is expecting to expand to a commercial airport as soon as the requirements can be met. Also, discussed at city airport planning meetings, the "World of Wings" an air show promoter, is interested in the Mormon Mesa site. Small as Mesquite may be at this time, we are a tourist industry based community and growing rapidly. Air shows, air racing, and air tours are all valid future uses, and should be addressed now.

I believe it is essential to map a specific flight corridor for tours and over flights on LAME and the GCPNM.

When mapping these flight paths special consideration should be given to the GCPNM, the qualities for which it was designated and the mission of the monuments management plans. (Reference page 6) Protecting the "remote character" of the land and the personal experience is not favorable to constant helicopter traffic and noise.

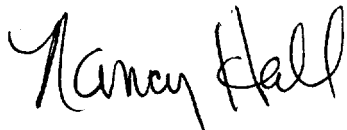
National Park Service has identified 493,000 acres of potential wilderness. Congress will act on this in the near future. It would be best to address these potential wilderness areas now, when forming a flight path, than later after Congress acts.

The Gold Butte area has two significant wilderness areas. Jumbo Springs and Lime Canyon, if possible, please preserve the natural quiet in these newly designated areas.

There are many archaeological sites within the scoping area and surrounding public lands. Over flights of sensitive areas will of course take away from those experiencing it on the ground, and may be offensive to Native Americans that have a religious connection to the area. It would be a difficult task to consider all these cultural areas as you determine the proper flight path. What I would like to see addressed in the management plan is where the tour operators are allowed to touch down. These remote, pristine cultural sites, that is off the beaten path and little known are easily accessible by helicopter. I have concerns that these areas are being exploited in such a manner.

As a resident of Mesquite, LAME, GCPNM and the surrounding public lands is my "backyard". I enjoy the primitive recreation it has to offer, quiet and solitude. I volunteer to steward our cultural resources in connection with the BLM and Forest Service in AZ and NV. I see this management plan as a chance to enhance the visitors experience by regulating the air tour traffic on defined flight paths, with consideration to sensitive resources: wilderness, wildlife and cultural.

Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Hall". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Nancy" and "Hall" being capitalized and prominent.

Nancy Hall
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